Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

UPDATED 2/8/2011

Classroom Innovation Grants — 2011

Request for Proposals (RFP)

| http://www.doe.in.gov/olt/LearningTechnologiesGrants.htm |

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Grant Overview

The Indiana Department of Education is announcing the **Classroom Innovation Grant** program for 2011 and requesting proposals from public schools and school corporations. These grants will focus on pursuit of the strategic objectives of the Indiana Department of Education through innovative uses of technology.

Applicants will be asked to provide evidence of capacity for innovation including:

- School/Corporation progress on the state 90-25-90 goals. (90% of students passing math and language arts assessments, 25% of students taking rigorous high school courses, 90% of students graduating in four years).

- School/Corporation wide commitment to enrolling all educators in the Learning Connection with educator access to appropriate student level data.

- School/Corporation commitment to using the growth-model data as well as other student level data to ensure that students are growing appropriately.

- Commitment to aggressive participation in online testing above the minimum required by the State Board of Education.

- Plan for utilizing textbook waivers to adopt digital curriculum and to support acquisition of necessary learning infrastructure such as ensuring appropriate devices are accessible to students.

- Progress on cost saving efforts, efficiency measures, and resource reallocation to support the information age learning ecosystem.

- School/Corporation commitment to creating an infrastructure for 21st Century Learning including a plan for ensuring that all students have access to an Internet capable device.

- School/Corporation commitment to investing in the capacity of school leaders and teachers to serve student learning needs in ways that are consistent with the capabilities of 21st Century learning environments including :

    o using data to customize instruction,

    o using online systems to streamline processes,

    o using systems to create hybrid environments that blend online and face-to-face instruction,

    o utilizing digital content and curriculum,

    o expecting participation in professional learning communities,

    o developing budgets for sustaining and expanding infrastructure for learning

The Indiana Department of Education is interested in funding bold and innovative proposals that demonstrate local commitment to creating, expanding and sustaining an ecosystem for information age learning. The Department will entertain proposals that focus on extending existing initiatives that meet these criteria.

Applicants should pay careful attention to the issue of sustainability by indicating how local resources and policy will ensure that the efforts initiated by the grant live well beyond the conclusion of the grant cycle.

Funded applications will be posted on the IDOE web site. Successful applicants will be expected to provide public evidence of progress on their initiatives during the course of the grant through channels such as IDOE sponsored webinars, site visits from other schools, etc.

Grant Details

Funding Source

- *Enhancing Education Through Technology - Federal Title II D (approximately 1.6 million)*
  - *Only schools eligible to receive Title IID funds will be funded through the Title IID funds. For a complete list of eligible publically funded schools for this grant, click here.*
- *David C. Ford Fund (approximately $2.8 million)*
  - *Any publically funded school can be funded from these state dollars.*

Eligibility: *All publically funded schools in Indiana are eligible to apply.*

Award Size: *$200,000*

Anticipated Number of Awards: *20*

Additional Details:

- *Grantees must comply with the state and federal guidelines/constraints regulating the use of funds.*
- *Grantees must agree to abide by IDOE list of assurances provided below.*
- *Minimum of 25% of funds must be spent on professional development.*
- *Additional funds available for technology skills assessment pilot project. See below.*
- *Site visits or phone calls may be part of the grant evaluation process.*
- *State is not obligated to award all funds in a single round. Only high quality proposals will be funded.*

Application Process

- Read the Classroom Innovation RFP.
- Begin work on your grant proposal by drafting some ideas and gathering evidence of your school or corporation's capacity to innovate (see list above and rubric below as well as additional documentation at the grant web site).
- Take part in the IDOE Q and A webinar on January 19th. (Register here.) This call will be archived and available in the Ed Tech Connect community on the Learning Connection.
- Select a vendor for the student technology skills assessment pilot if applicable (see details below).
- A file-based version of the application is available at the home page for this grant. This should be used as a guide for drafting the grant.
- Submit grant application online when the application is available on February 11, 2011.

Key Dates

Technical assistance webinar:	*1/19/11*
Webinars from technology assessment vendors:	*January 25-28, 2011*
Online application available:	*2/11/11*
Applications due:	*2/28/2011*
Award notifications:	*3/30/2011*
Funding Period:	*June 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012*

Student Technology Skills Assessment Pilot

The Indiana Department of Education is sponsoring a small pilot around the assessment of technology skills for Indiana 7th graders. This pilot is aimed at exploring student mastery of technology-related skills as represented by ISTE-NETS*S (technology standards for students). There are several reasons for this pilot:

- The State Board of Education recently adopted ISTE NETS*S and now the IDOE will begin to work with schools on measuring student achievement in this area.

- To be college and career ready students who can demonstrate skills necessary for life-long learning and be digital age learners which increasingly includes online instruction, learning, and assessment.

- National tests of technology literacy are on the horizon and Indiana students must be prepared to do well on these rigorous exams. (e.g., http://www.edgateway.net/cs/naepsci/print/docs/470)

The department will evaluate the results of the pilot as part of its decision about how to best support student achievement in this area. The Department will also use the data that results from this pilot to determine what curricular support and PD to provide once a school identifies student proficiency levels.

Successful grantees that serve 7th grade students are expected to participate in the pilot during the 2011-2012 school year. The Department will pay for the cost of the pilot through this grant. The cost for piloting an assessment will be added to the award amount of $200,000. Applicants will have the opportunity to select one of several assessment providers. Each of the following vendors will provide informational webinars to help schools determine which product to pilot.

Tech Steps by School Kit

Web site: www.techsteps.com

TechSteps is a district-wide technology literacy curriculum and assessment tool based on the ISTE NETS*S and correlated to the Common Core Curriculum. TechSteps is a project based program that easily and effectively infuses technology skills into core instruction. Each classroom-ready technology integration project guides students in using real-world applications to solve real-world challenges. The projects are guided and assessed using a rubric based on the ISTE NETS*S. The use of the rubric allows evidence provided by the student to be measured and mapped to a technology proficiency profile reflecting the ongoing growth of the student across the ISTE NETS *S and 21 Century learning skills. This proven approach allows educators to teach and assess technology literacy in an integrated and systematic manner to achieve college and career readiness for all students.

The project basis of TechSteps also provides a great deal of imbedded professional development for educators. Their proficiency will increase due to the fact they are working with their students with real world technology applications to increase rigor and relevance in the content area that they instruct. Teachers will grow by replicating what we provide, adapt what we provide to meet other needs and create their own content as they become more proficient.

Webinars for Tech Steps *(Mark your calendar for one of the following):*

- Wednesday, January 26th 2pm EST
- Friday, January 28th 11 am EST

Directions for joining the webinar on either of the above dates:

1. To check your connection beforehand go to www.glance.net, click on support and then choose the link on the left, Can I Glance? Follow directions
2. To join either **webinar** use the following instructions.
   o Log on to http://2.schoolkit.glance.net/
   o Enter your information
   o Enter session key 1167
   o Follow the instructions on the screen, you should be connected
3. The **conference** line is as follows
   o 1-800-979-0373
   o After greeting push 5, then press 1 to enter the conference call
   o The pass code is 25309

Please Note:

- Please connect early and mute your phones. You can un-mute to ask a question or make a comment.

Learning.com

Web site: http://www.learning.com/

Learning.com's 21st Century Skills Assessment is a psychometrically validated assessment. It addresses all 24 strands of ISTE's NETS for students. Questions in the assessment are:

- multiple choice
- performance based - students must perform technology tasks in various tools
- portfolio project - students must create a project as part of the overall process (optional)

Assessment results are generated by student, class, teacher, school, district and state, and raw data results are provided so comparative analysis can be made to address gender, race, or socio-economic disproportionalities.

Webinar — 21st Century Skills Assessment *(Register for one of the following)*

- Tuesday, January 25, 2011 — 11:00 am (EST) (Register Here)
- Thursday, January 27, 2011 — 2:00 pm (EST) (Register Here)

Please Note:

- Once the host receives your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting.
- Please unblock the email address Les@LesBarnett.net from your spam filter so you can receive the call information.

Atomic Learning

Web site: http://www.atomiclearning.com/k12/assessment

Atomic Learning's Tech Skills Assessment is a comprehension-based technology skills assessment for students designed to allow districts to gauge a student's technology skill level, and provides a framework to incorporate project-based assessment to demonstrate that skills can actually be applied.

Correlated to the ISTE NETS-S, Atomic Learning's Tech Skills Assessment features a series of questions that focus on both *how to use* technology and *how to apply* those skills. The assessment is also project-based, using four standards-aligned skills-based projects that, when completed; demonstrate that a user can apply their skills:

- Focus on how to use technology and how to apply technology
- Aligned to the ISTE NETS-S 2007 standards
- Can be completed in a single class period
- Reporting allows the user to see their overall skills and the organization to see overall tech literacy among all participants; allows simple identification of areas of greatest instructional need.
- Project-based – includes skills-based projects, sample rubrics and class discussion questions which can be incorporated in the classroom for students to develop and apply tech literacy skills

Districts can use the Tech Skills Assessment in a way that best meets their technology literacy goals; whether that is to simply document the tech literacy of their students or to target tech literacy gaps.

Please plan on attending one of the webinars on Atomic Learning's Tech Skills Assessment:

Friday, February 11th at 10:00 AM EST

- To join the meeting: http://atomiclearning.acrobat.com/r48226323/
- Conference Number: 1-866-244-8528
- Participant Code: 172366

Tuesday, February 15th at 1:00 PM EST

- To join the meeting: http://atomiclearning.acrobat.com/r62487749/
- Conference Number: 1-866-244-8528
- Participant Code: 172366

PLEASE NOTE: If you have never attended a Connect Pro meeting before, test your connection: http://atomiclearning.acrobat.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm
Get a quick overview: http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview

If schools are aware of additional student technology standards assessment products that they would like to see added to the list of options, they may contact the IDOE to discuss the possibility.

Grant Assurances

All applicants will need to agree to the state assurances in the list below. Applicants that are eligible for Title IID funding will need to agree to the Title II D assurances.

State Assurances

- The LEA assures that the district will not use less than 25 percent of funds received to provide ongoing, sustained, and intensive, high-quality professional development. The recipient shall provide professional development in the integration of advanced technologies, including emerging technologies, into curricula and instruction and in using those technologies to create new learning environments, such as professional development in the use of technology
- Grant recipients agree to maintain current data in the Learning Connection to ensure teacher access to historical student performance data. The local Learning Connection administrator for this school will provide each staff member with access to student data by utilizing the IDOE provided process for uploading and maintaining class rosters.
- Grant recipients ensure that each staff member participating in this grant knows how to access student data including growth model data through the Learning Connection either through school provided training sessions or through participation in IDOE sponsored webinars (Webinar Schedule: http://www.doe.in.gov/olt/LearningConnection/TheLearningConnection-WebinarScheduleandArchive.html
- Grant recipients agree to participate in the Speak Up Survey (http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/index.html) about technology use for students, teachers, parents, and administrators. All impacted teachers and administrators and at least 75% of impacted students will take the survey in 2011.
- The school corporation agrees to keep such records and to provide such information to the State educational agency, as may be reasonably required for fiscal audit and program evaluation (consistent with the responsibilities of the State educational agency under this part)
- The school corporation has an approved 3-year Tech Plan on file with IDOE

Title IID Assurances

- The LEA assures that it will comply with Section 9501 regarding participation by private school teachers and children. (http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg111.html#sec9501)
- The LEA assures that it will target funds to schools according to the criteria listed in Section 2414 (b) (3) (http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg35.html#sec2414)
- The LEA assures that the district is working methodically and consistently to meet the annual measurable objectives. [Section 2123(A)]
- Every "applicable school" has complied with the CIPA requirements in subpart 4 of Part D of Title II of the ESEA. (An "applicable school" is an elementary or secondary school that does not receive e-rate discounts and for which Ed Tech funds are used to purchase computers used to access the Internet or to pay the direct costs associated with accessing the Internet.) Please note: If you participate in e-rate you are already complying with CIPA
- The school corporation continues to be in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1978, and the Pro-Children Act of 1994
- The financial resources provided under the Title II, Part D will supplement, and not supplant, State and local funds

- The school corporation will remain in compliance with Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR Parts 76, 77, 80, 82, 85 and 86 (http://www.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html)

Grant Evaluation Rubric

Criteria	Points
Progress on Existing Initiatives	
Corporation/School Progress on 90-25-90 goals since 2009 • Math and English performance increases (90%) • Increase in rigorous high school courses (AP, IB, dual credit) (25%) • Increase in grad rate (90%)	/10
Access to the Learning Connection • All educators signed up • Educator access to student data	/5
Online Assessment • Participation commitment above minimum required by state board	/5
Use of Textbook Waiver Funds to Supplement Print-to-Digital transition	/5
Efforts to cut costs, gain efficiencies, and maintain IT services such as: • Shared services • Bulk purchasing • Re-allocation of funds from other areas • Virtualization • Insourcing • Outsourcing	/5
Comments:	**Subtotal:** **/30**
Vision for sustainable information age learning ecosystem	
Overall vision—does the corporation/schools have a vision for 21st Century Learning and what is the evidence of this vision? How is technology serving as a platform for student learning? How does technology enable the instructional enterprise?	/10
Local investment/commitment to human capacity (professional development, professional learning communities, collaboration).	/10
Local investment in learning infrastructure, systems, and software.	/10
Comments:	**Subtotal:** **/30**

Criteria	Points
Proposed Project, Program, Initiative	
Strength of idea • How does the idea drive up student engagement, invest in staff capacity, support pedagogical change, and further extend your school/corporation's efforts to building an ecosystem for information age learning. • Will the project lead to products, services, or information that is exportable and useful to other Indiana schools?	/20
Alignment to DOE strategic objectives	/10
Overall Sustainability—is the program, project, direction properly supported locally to ensure sustainability?	/10
Comments:	**Subtotal:** **/40**
	Total: **/100**